

Construction Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:

-  **15,133 Employers**
-  **126,641 Workers**
-  **\$61,762 Average Wage**

Why Have a Career in Construction?

The Construction industry represents 5.3 percent of total private sector employment in Missouri, employing over 126,000 workers in more than 15,000 businesses in 2019. Average annual wages in this industry are \$61,762, higher than the state average of \$51,139 for all industries.

Employment in this industry has been steadily growing, increasing 2.8 percent per year from 2014 to 2019. The Construction industry is projected to grow 6.9 percent from 2018 to 2028, adding over 8,000 new jobs over the 10-year period. In addition to new job growth, workers will also be needed to fill replacement positions as employees retire or move to employment in other industries.

Along with formal training in community colleges and technical schools, many construction occupations, such as Carpenters, Bricklayers and Cement Masons, can be mastered through paid apprenticeships. From Laborers to Engineers, there are a variety of careers in the Construction fields of Skilled Trades, Engineering, and Quality Control.

Know the Basics

Construction depends heavily on delivering solidly built structures on a deadline so the ability to plan, schedule, and follow direction while working on a team is important. Safety and quality control are also a critical part of this industry. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations, including Construction.

Skills needed for Success:

In addition, Construction has a set of industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in this industry. Craftsmanship, building and construction design, building and installation, and business fundamental skills such as contracts, budgeting, and cost estimating are some of the skills that may be needed for success.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

- J.E. Dunn Construction**
- Roto Rooter**
- Arco Construction Company Inc.**
- CDM Smith**
- Trendsetter Homes**



Skilled Trades

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Construction Laborers
Entry: \$33,150; Average: \$48,740

Engineering & Quality Control

See Next and Later categories for job opportunities in Engineering and Quality Control

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long- Term On-the-Job Training

Plumbers
Entry: \$46,510; Average: \$65,820

Carpenters
Entry: \$39,190; Average: \$58,740

Electricians
Entry: \$44,190; Average: \$60,530

HVAC Mechanics and Installers
Entry: \$36,290; Average: \$49,960

Electrical and Electronics Drafters
Entry: \$45,710; Average: \$66,110

Architectural and Civil Drafters
Entry: \$41,960; Average: \$57,090

Mechanical Drafters
Entry: \$42,950; Average: \$56,250

Certificates: Plumbing, Carpentry, Electrician, HVAC Engineering Technology/Technician

Degrees: Engineering
Certificates: CAD Certification

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Construction Managers
Entry: \$72,380; Average: \$105,720

Construction and Building Inspectors
Entry: \$43,100; Average: \$51,880

Cost Estimators
Entry: \$51,570; Average: \$71,620

Electrical Engineers
Entry: \$76,230; Average: \$101,540

Degrees: Construction Management, Business Administration and Management

Degrees: Engineering

Sources:

Burning Glass Technologies Labor/Insight™ tool
Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse
2019 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Top employers data is based on 2020 online job ads



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